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NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR QUALITY

The President has announced that the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), Arlington, Virginia, has been awarded the Presidential Award for Quality, the nation's highest award for quality in the federal government.

In a letter to Secretary of Defense William J. Perry, President Clinton described NAVAIR as "a valuable model for the transformed government we are striving to build."

Secretary Perry commented: "I am proud to have such innovative, enthusiastic organizations within our Department. Changing from traditional management style, to one based on Quality Management principles, is a difficult transition, but the Department needs the consistent application of these principles to continually improve our processes."

Vice Admiral William C. Bowes, commander, Naval Air Systems Command, will accept the award on behalf of all Naval Aviation Systems team personnel in a ceremony to be held at the Seventh Annual National Conference on Federal Quality, on July 13, 1994 at the Washington Hilton and Towers. The Naval Air Systems Command is the only repeat winner of this distinguished award, having won its first in 1989.

NAVAIR, with 47,000 employees, 18 major sites across the country, and an \$11.5 billion fiscal 1994 budget, provides aircraft and weapon systems to the entire Navy. Its work involves everything from basic research to operational support. The command has successfully pursued quality while undergoing a major downsizing effort. The organization is expected to shrink to about 33,000 employees and 11 sites by 1997.

The Federal Quality Institute received applications from one civilian and three military organizations for the 1994 Presidential Award. The examination was conducted by 19 quality experts from eight private companies and 11 federal organizations. The standards and examination for this award are extremely rigorous. Only two other organizations have won the Award since its inception in 1989.

For additional information or to schedule an interview, please contact Ms. Amy Braskamp at (703) 604-2822 ext. 4606.

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